

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/960,401**
Supplemental Response dated February 27, 2004
Supplemental Response to OA of **August 29, 2003**

REMARKS

In supplemental response to the Office Action dated **August 29, 2003**, entry of the following remarks, and reconsideration, are respectfully requested.

In accordance with 35 USC 119(a)-(d), the above-referenced application claims the benefit of the filing date of the following foreign priority document: Japanese Patent Application, First Publication No. 2000-294108, filed on September 27, 2000.

Applicant submits herewith an English translation of a certified copy of the foreign priority document: Japanese Patent Application, First Publication No. 2000-294108. Additionally, Applicant submits herewith a statement affirming the accuracy of the translation.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the enclosed translation and statement in the next Office Action.

Accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner feels that this application is not currently in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for a telephone conference to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: English translation of foreign priority document
Statement affirming the accuracy of the English translation